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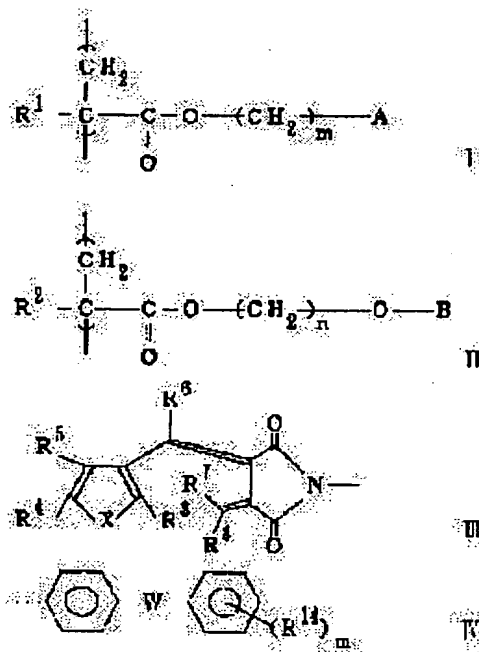
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(54) PHOTOCROMIC LIQUID CRYSTAL COPOLYMER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide the subject new copolymer composed of two specified monomer units, having a specified weight-average molecular weight, containing a specified amount of a fulgide-containing monomer and useful as an optical recording material, a display material, etc.

CONSTITUTION: The objective copolymer is composed of monomer units of formulae I and II [R¹ and R² are H or methyl; (m) and (n) are 2-30; A is formula III [R³-R⁸ are H, halogen or 1-10C alkyl; X is O, S, N-R¹³ (R¹³ is H, 1-10C alkyl or phenyl which may be substituted)], etc.; B is formula IV (W is single bond, N=N, etc.; R¹⁴ is alkoxy, halogen, etc.; (m) is 1-5)], having 1000-1000000 weight-average molecular weight and containing 0.1-50wt.% monomer unit of the component (A). In addition, this polymer is obtained by free radical polymerization of a (meth) acrylic acid monomer having a fulgide of the component (A) and another (meth)acrylic acid monomer having a mesogen of the component (B) in the presence of a polymerization initiator in a solvent such as THF.



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